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show under test greater strength, greater rigidity, and a higher elastic limit, than the original sandstone. A plastic shale, if duly forced to "fail" often enough and sufficiently, might, like certain of our shopmen, come out of the process a highly elastic schist. If ten million blocks of earth-material, so distributed throughout the earth as best to represent its structural competency, could be tested today and the results compared with a similar test made in Cambrian times, the elastic competency would quite certainly be found to be as great now as then. There is some presumption that it would be rather greater.

The engineer in dealing with an artificial structure properly enough proceeds on the assumption that there is present a certain modicum of structural competency, and that when this is once broken down that ends the matter. The earth cannot be dealt with advisedly in this way. The constant regeneration of strength, of rigidity, and of elasticity, under appropriate conditions, is as vital a factor in the earth problems as is the breaking-down of such acquisitions of these properties as had been inherited from the previous constructive processes.

There are many things in the address which are suggestive and helpful, and in so far as they lead on to more critical studies they are heartily to be welcomed. The reviewer would suggest, however, as a running mate to this address, one on the earth as a generative structure. T. C. C.

#### *Schmidt's Geological Sections of the Alps.*

American geologists who are interested in modern interpretations of Alpine structure will find a valuable series of colored sections in several pamphlets by Professor C. Schmidt of Basel, as follows: (1) *Bild und Bau der Schweizeralpen*, which appeared as a supplement to Vol. XLII of the Swiss Alpine Club, 1907 (Basel: Finckh. Fr. 5), contains, besides a beautifully illustrated text, a small geological map and a remarkable group of sections illustrating the extreme extension now given to the idea of overthrust folds. (2) *Führer zu den Exkursionen der deutschen geologischen Gesellschaft im südlichen Schwarzwald, im Jura und in den Alpen, August, 1907*, by Schmidt, Buxtorf, and Preiswerk (Stuttgart: Schweizerbart. M. 5), containing a number of more detailed sections, as well as the group of general sections. (3) *Ueber die Geologie des Simplongebietes und die Tektonik der Schweizeralpen* (*Eclog. geol. Helv.*, IX), with a number of detailed sections and a general geological map of the Alps between St. Gotthard and Mont Blanc. (4) *Tektonische Demonstrationenbilder* (to be had of the author. Fr. 1), with some of the same Alpine sections and several additional sections for the Vosges and the Schwarzwald.

W. M. D.